In the Claims

1-54. (Cancelled).

55. (Currently Amended) An adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device, comprising:

a desiccant polymeric matrix containing a regenerable desiccant agent therein and having pressure-sensitive adhesive properties;

a support layer disposed on one side of said matrix; and

a release liner disposed on the other side of said matrix

wherein the support layer is water-vapor-permeable.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the polymeric matrix comprises at least one polymeric material selected from the group consisting of acrylates, silicones, polyisobutylens, SIS rubber, SEBS rubber, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyurethane, polyesters, polyethylene, polyvinylalcohol, polyamides, ethylene-vinylacetate, polyacrylic acid, kollidon and cellulose derivatives thereof.

59. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the regenerative desiccant is selected from the group consisting of $CaSO_4$, $CaSO_4$ ½ H_2O, $CaCl_2$, Al_2O_3, CaO, Na_2SO_4, K_2CO_3, $CuSO_4$, $Mg(ClO_4)_2$, $MgSO_4$, silica gel and

polyvinylpyrrolidone.

60. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the water-vapor-permeable layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of paper, cellulose, nonwovens and perforated films.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the release liner comprises a material selected from the group consisting of films containing polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper and modifications thereof.

63. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises one or more plasticizers selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, glycerol, miglyol, propane diol, triglycerides, diethyl phthalate and tributyl citrate.

64. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises one or more tackifiers selected from the group consisting of rosin esters, hydrogenated rosin esters and hydrocarbon resins.

65. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to

claim 55, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises a moisture indicator selected from the group consisting of copper (II) salts and cobalt (II) salts.

66. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the desiccant comprises solid particles having a size of from 1 to 200 μm.

67. (Currently Amended) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim ~~66~~65, wherein the ~~size of the solid particles is~~ desiccant comprises solid particles having a size from 1 to 50μm.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended) An adhesive, activatable sheet-from drying device, comprising:

a desiccant polymeric matrix containing a regenerable desiccant therein;

a support layer disposed on one or both sides of said matrix;

a ~~pressue-senstive~~ pressure-sensitive adhesive layer; and

a release liner covering said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer

wherein one or both support layers are water-vapor-permeable.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the polymeric matrix comprises at least one polymeric material selected from the group consisting of acrylates, silicones, polyisobutylens, SIS rubber, SEBS rubber, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyurethane, polyesters, polyethylene, polyvinylalcohol, polyamides, ethylene-vinylacetate, polyacrylic acid, kollidon and cellulose derivatives thereof.

75. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the regenerative desiccant is selected from the group consisting of $CaSO_4$, $CaSO_4$ ½ H_2O, $CaCl_2$, Al_2O_3, CaO, Na_2SO_4, K_2CO_3, $CuSO_4$, $Mg(ClO_4)_2$, $MgSO_4$, silica gel and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

76. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the water-vapor-permeable layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of paper, cellulose, nonwovens and perforated films.

77. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the support layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper and nonwovens.

78. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the release liner comprises a material selected from the group consisting of films containing polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper and modifications thereof.

79. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises one or more plasticizers selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, glycerol, miglyol, propane diol, triglycerides, diethyl phthalate and tributyl citrate.

80. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises one or more tackifiers selected from the group consisting of rosin esters, hydrogenated rosin esters and hydrocarbon resins.

81. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises a moisture indicator selected from the group consisting of copper (II) salts and cobalt (II) salts.

82. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the desiccant comprises solid particles having a size of from 1 to 200 μm.

83. (Previously Presented) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 82, wherein the size of the solid particles is from 1 to 50μm.

84. (Cancelled)

85. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~84~~ 87, wherein a closed gas space is formed by an air tight packaging of moisture-sensitive articles.

86. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 85, wherein the moisture-sensitive articles are selected from the group consisting of tablets, transdermal therapeutic systems and sheet-form pharmaceutical administration forms for oral use.

87. (New) A method of reducing moisture content and/or maintaining a reduced moisture content in a closed gas space surrounding a drying device comprising the steps of:

a) converting an activatable drying device as claimed in claim 55 or 71 by activation into an active state;

b) placing the activated drying device obtained according to step a) above into the gas-space whose moisture content is to be reduced and/or whose reduced moisture content is to be maintained;

c) airtightly closing said gas space with respect to the surroundings.